BUENOS AIRES, Apr 1 Former world footballer-ofthe-year Diego Maradona said on Monday his fight against drug addiction was a constant struggle and he was desperately trying to give it up, report agen-

The 36-year-old Maradona, who had treatment for his drug problem last year, said on Argentinian television that if it wasn't for his wife Claudia he would have not considered giving up drugs.

She is the best mother in the world and thank God she is my wife," Maradona said.

"Drugs breaks a family. It is like a 'pacma' which eats up love. Your family and oneself." Maradona added.

He denied reports that it was his manager Guillermo Coppola, who was recently acquitted on a drugs trafficking charge, who turned him into an addict.

"I didn't even know Coppola when I started taking cocaine," Maradona said.

He added that he did not know why he had taken drugs and that if he did know the reason he wouldn't have started taking them in the first place.

Another Reuter report adds: Maradona said he would not accept the condition that he had to train day if he wanted to rejoin Boca Juniors.

'(I'm) not mad ... I cannot do it. If I train everyday I will die. he said on television.

The Argentine press have reported that Boca executives have demanded that the 36year-old former World Cup captain train everyday if he is to rejoin Boca.

Maradona said he needed about a month to be in shape. "But I will accept no pressures to train," he said.

Maradona played his last game with Boca in August 1996.

FIFA stars to join HK party

HONG KONG, Apr 1: George Weah and Alan Shearer will lead a FIFA All Star side to play Asia's best in a soccer spectacular for Hong Kong's handover, officials said Tuesday, reports

Other top names are also being lined up for the July 3 match, two days after Britain transfers sovereignty of the colony, for the most political event FIFA has linked its name

The match and a host of other events is being organised by the sport community for celebration of reunification of Hong Kong with China, also known as the reunification sports committee.

Timothy Fok, executive vicepresident of the committee. said: "We are delighted that we have been able to secure such top level names to support this extraordinary and happy moment.

Fok's father Henry Fok, a tycoon with close links to China. is a former executive member of the International Football Federation (FIFA).

Fok said stars from past World Cup winning sides and other top names in the world of football had already confirmed for the All Star team, but he declined to release names.

"A team of 16 has been selected by FIFA and so far seven players have confirmed but as we are getting confirmations every day we won't release a full lineup for a while."

Shearer. Newcastle United's 15 million pound (22.5 million US dollar) striker, was second to Brazil's Ronaldo in this year's world player-of-the-year award and AC Milan scorer Weah won the title last year.

The Asian team will be chosen by the Asian Football Confederation (AFC), which has invited 18 players, including two from China - Fan Zhiyi and Hao Haidong.

Others expected to confirm are South Korea's Hwang Sun Hwang, Dusit Chalemson from Thailand and Asian player-ofthe-year Masami Thara from Japan.

Asia has not fielded an All Star side since the 1960s but FIFA's team has performed regularly for charity and at exhibition matches around the world. The last match was in

New York last July. Pro-China groups are organising a host of concerts, firework and harbouride displays around the handover at midnight on June, which is expected to attract worldwide at-

tention. "These events are very important but the community is so sports mad that this event may touch the lives of more people,

said Fok. The reunification sports committee has been set up by sports leaders in the territory and Fok said other events were

planned for the handover. "We intend to use the surplus

from the match to pay for a full time foundation, working to build on the July celebrations," said Fok.

Roscoe released

SOMERVILLE. New Jersey Apr 1: Former tennis star Roscoe Tanner was released from a New Jersey jail and was on his way to Tennessee, reports AP.

Tanner's lawyer. Fred Sikora, said Tanner was freed Thursday. Tanner was wanted in Tennessee on charges that he bounced a check for more than 10,000 dollars.

Tanner, of Rising Fawn. Georgia, was jailed last week for failing to abide by an agreement he signed two years ago, which ordered him to pay former Bernards Township resident Constance Romano 500.000 dollars in child support.

WI laugh last on a weird wicket

throat and he could only fend it

off the shoulder of the bat to

edge to one that leapt at him.

wicket-keeper Courtney Browne

dulkar added 16 for the third

completing an easy catch.

Rahul Dravid also got an

Laxman and Sachin Ten-

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, Apr 1: The West Indies fast bowlers, on a devilish Kensington Oval pitch. routed India for 81 to secure a sensational vic-

CHANDERPAUL ... m-o-m

tory by 38 runs midway through

the fourth day of the third Cable

and Wireless cricket Test on

stumps of last man Venkatesh

Prasad 45 minutes after lunch,

he sunk to his knees on the pitch and punched the air in de-

light. He was soon joined by

most of the smallish crowd of

5.000 who swarmed on to the

ground to join in the victory

celebrations that lasted well

a 1-0 lead in the five-match se

ries with two Tests remaining.

without loss in pursuit of a

modest 120 to win, lost wickets

at regular intervals. Only

opener V Laxman, with an en-

terprising 19, passed double fig-

ures as the West Indian pacers

bowled with hostility and accu-

ever total at Kensington Oval,

beating the previous mark of 94

by New Zealand in 1985. It was

also the second lowest Indian

total against the West Indies

just passing the 75 they made at

lar Jamaican in only his third

Test, started the Indian slide by

removing the first three bats-

men in a hostile spell of nine

delivery that jumped at his

crushing seven-wicket victory

over South Africa with five

overs to spare in the second of

seven one-day internationals

tury levelled the series after

South Africa's equally em-

phatic six-wicket win on Satur-

day and gave Australia a much-

needed boost after 13 defeats in

added 107 with twin brother

Steve (50 not out) after off-

spinner Pat Symcox had taken

Needing 222 to win, Waugh

VALUE OF THE PARTY OF THE PARTY

M WAUGH ... 115 n.o.

spanned just 125 balls with

eight boundaries and three

sixes. His brother's half century

came from 52 balls with five

slump in form plumbed new

depths in an innings of 17. His

dismissal, caught at slip, was

(33) caught at mid-wicket and

Shane Warne, put in at number

by walloping Symcox for 32

rush in his last two overs. He

successive sixes over mid-

in on a green pitch under over-

cast skies and Queensland

medium-pacer Adam Dale, in

only his second game, quickly

reduced the home side to 16 for

Dale had local debutant

Louis Koen caught at second slip

for a duck, Adam Bacher caught

at mid-off for three and then

bowled Daryll Cullinan for an-

But Jacques Kallis and Jonty Rhodes added 104 for the fourth

wicket to rescue the innings be-

fore Rhodes drove a tame catch

to mid-on to depart for 57 with

seven fours. Kallis and Hansie

Cronje (31) added another 61 for

the fifth wicket to continue the

bowled by Jason Gillespie in the

45th over. Kallis's 82 came from

118 balls with five fours and a

the national anthems before

the start, Australia had to en-

dure waltzing matilda and not

Cronje and Kallis were both

When the teams lined up for

three in eight overs.

other duck.

recovery.

reached his century with two

Taylor had put South Africa

four, was lbw to him first ball.

Symcox then had Stuart Law

Mark Waugh made amends

Captain Mark Taylor's

fours and a six.

almost a relief.

wicket.

Mark Waugh's innings

their last 19 matches.

two wickets in two balls.

Waugh's 10th one-day cen-

on Monday, reports Reuter.

Navjot Sidhu got a brute of a

PORT ELIZABE-

TH, South Africa.

Apr 1: A brilliant,

unbeaten 115

from Mark Waugh

led Australia to a

overs from the pavilion end.

Franklyn Rose, the muscu-

Delhi in 1978-79.

India's 81 was the lowest-

The win gave the West Indies

India, resuming on two

after the finish.

When Ian Bishop rattled the

Monday, report agencies.

wicket, the highest stand of the innings. But both fell at the same score as India were reduced to 32 for four.

third slip.

Laxman was bowled off stump by Rose playing a hesitant front foot defensive shot. His 77 minutes at the crease was the longest any Indian batsman lasted. He faced 61 balls and hit two of the six boundaries in the innings.

But it was the prize scalp of Tendulkar that sent the expectant crowd into a state of frenzy. The Indian captain, who top-scored in the first innings with 92, drove at Ian Bishop and Tendulkar's opposite number Brian Lara took an excellent low catch at first slip to his

The left-handed Saurav Ganguly and Mohammad Azharuddin rode their luck to score two boundaries each before Curtly Ambrose returned in place of Rose to claim them

In Rose's spell, the ball constantly rose disconcertingly of a good length. Now, the wily Ambrose bowled both batsmen with balls that kept low. Ganguly played back to one

that came into him and his middle and off stumps were rattled. Azharuddin's ball kept even lower and his off stump was hit as he played back. Bishop returned to dismiss Anil Kumble just before lunch,

the Indian leg-spinner skying an on-drive off the leading edge straight to square leg where Holder accepted the easy chance.

In the second over after the break, defiant wicket-keeper Nayan Mongia padded up to an in-swinger from Bishop that came back to clip the off stump. Abey Kuruvilla and Dodda Ganesh gamely added 14 for the

ninth wicket before the last two wickets fell in quick succes-Kuruvilla lobbed a catch to mid-on off Ambrose and Prasad

had his stumps rattled by

Bishop. Bishop ended with four wickets for 22 runs off 11.5

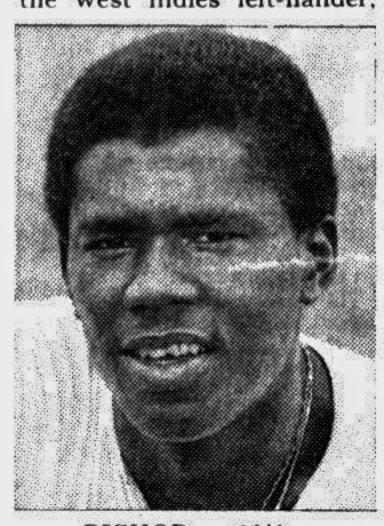
Waughs weather SA storm

advance Australia fair after a

mix-up in tapes.

overs to finish with a match haul of seven for 92. Rose took three for 19 for match analysis of seven for 96. Ambrose captured three for 36 to end with five wickets in the match.

Shivnaraine Chanderpaul, the West Indies left-hander,



BISHOP ... 22/4

took the man-of-the-match award for his unbeaten 137 in the West Indies first innings, his maiden Test century.

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard on the fourth day of the third cricket Test between India and West Indies in Barbados Monday: **WEST INDIES:** First innings

298 (Chanderpaul 137 n.o.;

Prashad 82/5) **INDIA:** First innings 319 (Tendulkar 92; Rose 77/4) WEST INDIES: Second innings140 (Lara 45; Kuruvilla

INDIA: Second innings V Laxman b Rose Sidhu c Williams b Rose Dravid c Browne b Rose Tendulkar c Lara b Bishop Ganguly b Ambrose Azharuddin b Ambrose Mongia b Bishop Kumble c Holder b Bishop Ganesh not out Kuruvilla c Holder b Ambrose Prasad b Bishop Extras (nb-11; b-2; lb-2) Total (all out in 35.5 overs)

Fall of wkts: 1-3; 2-16; 3-32; 4-32; 5-45; 6-51; 7-57; 8-65; 9-Bowling: 3 36 15 Ambrose 11.5 4 Bishop 3

Result: West Indies won by 38

39

21

Man-of-the-match: S Chan-

Bowling:

Pollock

Symcox

April 5.

Klusener

seven wickets.

Kallis

WC qualifiers

Malaysia beat Bangladesh Sports Reporter

Bangladesh suffered a solitary goal defeat to Malaysia in their last World Cup football qualifying match in Saudi Arabia on Monday.

According to a message received here yesterday, Bangladesh dominated the entire proceedings but went down through a controversial penalty late in the first half.

Bangladesh completed their dismal campaign that read five defeats with a lone victory against Chinese Taipei on Saturday. Asian champions Saudi Arabia have moved into the next round. They defeated Chinese Taipei 6-0 in their last match also held on Monday.

Before returning to home Bangladesh will play an exhibition match the Bahrain national side tomorrow.

Div II soccer

Sports Reporter

Second Division football leaders Shantinagar Club and Jurain Janata Club drew 1-1 at the Army Stadium yesterday afternoon.

In a see-saw affair, Rahel put Shantinagar ahead in the 15th minute while Biaka Lusai equalised for Jurain in the 39th minute.

Despite the result, Shantinagar remained atop the 16team league table with 23 points from nine game while Jurain raised their tally to 15 points

also from as many matches. In the day's other two fixtures at the Mirpur Stadium. Mahakhali Ekadash outplayed East End Boy's Club by three goals to nil while Gandaria Famous Sporting Club registered a 1-0 victory over Eskaton Sabuj Sangha.

Meanwhile, the Metropolis Football League Committee, the organiser of the league, has shifted the matches to Dhaka Stadium which were scheduled at the Army Stadium from today onwards.

Ferenc Puskas turns 70

BUDAPEST, Apr 1 (AP): The to avoid any slip-ups against man that IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch calls "the world's most popular Hungarian" is turning 70.

reports AFP.

run-in.

Sacchi.

Wednesday's birthday bash for soccer legend Ferenc Puskas - soccer's first megastar - will be marked by awards, a gala evening of songs and tributes, a friendly between Hungary and Australia with Puskas kicking off the ball, and a glittering guest list.

Samaranch and Puskas go back a way. Samaranch first wrote about Puskas when he was a sports writer for the Spanish daily La Prensa in the

In the early 50s, Puskas was the centerpiece of a Hungarian national side that many considered the world's best team and his name goes down in soccer history with the likes of Pele, Di Stefano, Corso, Beckenbauer, Cruyff, Blohin, Maradona, Piechi, Breitner and

Ocwirk. But to millions of fans in Hungary, Puskas is just "Oecsi," a nickname like "kid," and it makes him "family."

in the early 1950s and People's Stadium was jammed whenever he and the 'Golden Team' played. The team was filled with world-class players, but Oecsi was the best. "Of all of us, he was the best,

Puskas captained that club

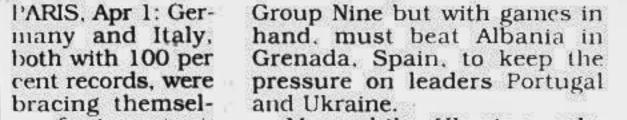
said Nandor Hidegkuti. 76 himself one of the Golden Team. "He had a seventh sense for soccer. If there were 1,000 solutions, he'd pick the 100Ist."

As sports writer Tibor Hamori wrote in his 1982 book on Puskas, "Legenda es Valosag" (Legend and Reality), "he had it figured out before he did anything, he knew it all in ad

Puskas - according to the German-based International Federation of Football History and Statistics - is the all-time leading club scorer with 511 goals in 533 games between 1943 and 1966.

Puskas was born Ferenc Purczeld in 1927 in a cold -water flat ink.

The London Daily Mirror in that era called Puskas "the world's best soccer player." And although the Hungarian team won the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, the greatest moment was on Nov 23, 1953, when the Golden Team beat England 6-3 at Wembley, the British team's first defeat on home turf in 90 years.



Israel's Mickael Revivo (C) escapes a tackle by Luxembourg's Marc Birsens (L) during their

Points Cesare's priority

World Cup qualifying encounter in Luxembourg on March 31. Israel won 3-0.

away days on Wednesday as both three-times World Cup champions moved into the 1998 cup qualifying home straight. A win for Italy in Poland Saturday. would virtually seal Group Two

unless England really excel in Italy and Poland during the It would also be Cesare Mal-

dini's fourth win in four Despite high hopes as outmatches with no goals conceded siders in Euro '96, Croatia's top since taking over from Arrigo Germany, only fourth in

Bulgaria taking

no chances SOFIA, Apr 1: Bulgaria need

many and Italy,

both with 100 per

cent records, were

bracing themsel-

ves for important

Cyprus on Wednesday if they are to keep in touch with Israel and Russia at the top of World Cup qualifying Group Five. reports Reuter.

Israel went to the top of the standings on Monday after beating Luxembourg 3-0 but Cyprus, who beat Israel earlier in the campaign, provided they are no longer a complete pushover by holding Russia to a 1-1 draw on Saturday.

Bulgarian national coach Hristo Boney, who was a good knowledge of Cypriot soccer following his spell as coach of Apoel Nicosia said today his side would not be under-estimating the visitors as the Russians did.

Meanwhile Ukraine, who

beat Albania on Saturday, would gain top spot in the group with a home victory over Northern Ireland who drew 0-0 Portugal at Windsor Park on A win for Croatia over

neighbouring Slovenia is a must if they hope to qualify from Group One for France next

performers, including Robert Prosinecki, Alen Boksic and Davor Suker, could only make the quarterfinals and need World Cup success to bolster their reputation.

In Group Four, Scotland will have one foot in France if they can beat Austria at home, having ousted Estonia 2-0 at the weekend, a win for Scotland would put them seven points clear of second placed Austria. Holland's imperious 4-0

trashing of San Marino on Saturday was a formality but their trip to Turkey on Wednesday is far from easy, however, a win for Guus Hiddink's team would put them six points clear of Belgium in Group Seven. Romania thrashed Liecen

stein 8-0 in Group Eight on Saturday and should be too much for Lithuania on Wednesday enabling them to motor well ahead in Group Eight, just below Romania, the winners of Macedonia and Republic of Ireland, both with seven points. would grab second spot outright. Bayern Munich's Mario

ing a German citizen.

It was initially intended that Dundee would travel with the 18 man team as a visitor, getting a feel for the occasion, but now he will play an active role, the game will be played in neutral Spain because of the violent civil unrest in Albania

many's squad because of the

South African born Sean

Dundee whose inclusion sug-

gests he might be given the

chance to make his German de-

but, three months after becom-

Basler will be replaced by

imminent birth of his child

- AFP/UNB photo

Italy may have cruised to a 3-0 victory over Moldova here. But coach Maldini has told his men to buck their ideas up for the match in Poland.

'98 World Cup Juergens' last FRANKFURT, Germany, Apr

: Juergen Klinsmann and Juergen Kohler confirmed here today they would end their international careers after the 1998 World Cup in France, reports AFP.

"It's definitely over for me after the World Cup," said Kohler who was talked out of retiring after Germany won the European Championship last year by coach Berti Vogts.

The 31-year-old Klinsmann who has scored 41 goals in 94 internationals since making his debut against Brazil in 1987, will be leaving Bayern Munich and Germany for another club at the end of the sea

Kohler will win his 90th cap in Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Albania in Grenada, Spain.

Basler has pulled out of Ger-Colombia's anxious hours



RIO DE JANEIRO. Apr 1: Colombia. who have led the South American World Cup quali-

lying tournament from the start, could be toppled on Wednesday when they travel to second-placed Paraguay with several key players suspended, reports Reuter.

Third-placed Argentina head uphill to Bolivia after one of the most pain-staking preparations for a single match in their history, hoping to build on their 1-0 win away to Colombia in February.

Uruguay have a chance to revive their ailing aspirations with a home game against bottom-team Venezuela as the second half of the marathon competition, in which the nine teams play each other twice, gets underway. The top four countries qual-

ify for France '98 with eight games left each, only Venezuela, on one point, do not have a realistic chance of reaching the finals, only three points separate Argentina and eight-placed

However, the current standings could prove deceptive as some teams have played more home games than others.

Paraguay, whose only defeat was away to Colombia in their opening game, trail the leaders on goal difference and have won all their games so far in their intimidating "Defenders of the Chaco" Stadium.

Inspired by goalkeeper-cum-

marksman Jose Luis Chilavert Paraguay are excellently placed to qualify for the first time since 1986, especially as they have five home games left.

Colombia, after the moraleshattering defeat against Argentina which cost them their unbeaten record, have to plug the holes caused by the suspensions of midfielder Freddy Rincon, full-back Wilmer Cabrera and defender Jorge Bermudez.

The trio whose experience would have been invaluable, all have two yellow cards, coach Hernan Dario Gomez will also have to find a new striking partner for Faustino Asprilla as first choice Ivan Valenciano is ruled out through injury. Argentina will have to over-

3,600 metres above sea level, and have been training in the bleak Altiplano on their own side of the border for the last three weeks in preparation. The match revives memories of 1973 when Argentina beat Bolivia 1-0 with a team of non-

come the altitude of La Qaz,

regular internationals who were picked especially to play in La Paz and spent weeks training for the match. The players, controversially, did not get to play in the World

Cup and the team was known as "the ghosts." On this occasion, however, Argentina are taking their fullstrength squad and can expect a hot reception after coach Daniel Passarella described conditions in La Paz as "inhu-

man" for soccer. Ecuador, in fourth place, ap-

pear well placed to reach the World Cup for the first time but have not yet won appoint outside their own country and play five of their remaining games

On Wednesday they travel to Peru, who they beat 4-1 at home last year. Peru themselves have four home games left.

In early 1995, the two nations were involved in a border conflict that killed dozens and injured hundreds, because of this, the national anthems will not be played to avoid arousing nationalist passions.

Bolivia, two points behind

Ecuador, have the biggest home advantage thanks to altitude but appear to have wasted it. having drawn four of their six home games, victory against Argentina is essential to keep them in the race. Two-time world champions

Uruguay, who trail Bolivia on goal difference, have only three home games left and appear to be in serious danger of missing out the World Cup for the second time running. Beating Venezuela at home

may restore confidence but is unlikely to help them much, as all the other teams also expect to pick up three points against a team that is out of its depth. Chile, one point below

Uruguay and three below Ecuador, play six of their remaining games at home, where they have a 100 per cent record so far, they are not involved in the action on Wednesday, when they travel to Brazil for a friendly.

The annual prize distribution ceremony of LORETO School was held at the National Museum premises yester-- Star photo

Dale, J Gillespie Taylor to take a break

PORT ELIZABETH, Apr 1: Australian skipper Mark Taylor is on the verge of taking his much awaited, self-prescribed break from international

cricket, reports AP. Taylor, who appears to be suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome similar to that of former West Indies skipper Richie Richardson, is contemplating taking at least a week off and probably relaxing on

the golf course. Taylor, 32, has been dogged by poor form and 15 month of Test cricket without a halfcentury. He considers self-exile to be in the best interests of the

team. "The best thing I can do is have a rest from bat and ball and may be try the golf club." Taylor said after Australia's seven-wicket win over South



MARK TAYLOR

SCOREBOARD 'Scoreboard' in the second one-day international between South Africa and Australia at

St George's Park on Monday. SOUTH AFRICA Bacher e Bevan b Dale Koen c M Waugh b Dale Kallis b Gillespie Cullinan b Dale Rhodes c Reiffel b Bevan Cronje b Gillespie Pollock c Dale b Warne Klusener not out Richardson run out Symcox not out Extras: (b-1, lb-4, nb-3, w-3)

Total: (for eight wickets in 50 overs) Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-4: 3-16: 4-120: 5-181: 6-183: 7-212: 8-215. Did not bat: Allan Doland. Reiffel Gillespie 10 0

39 Warne 33 Bevan AUSTRALIA M Waugh not out 115 Taylor c Cullinan b Donald Law c Rhodes b Symcox Warne lbw b Symcox S Waugh not out Extras: (lb-2, nb-3, w-2) Total: (for three wickets in 45 overs)

Fall of wickets: 1-47; 2-115; Did not bat: G Blewett, M Bevan, A Gilchrist, P Reiffel, A

S WAUGH ... 50 n.o.

Africa to square the seven match one-day series 1-1 here on Monday. down coincides with vice captain Ian Healy's availability to

one-day matches after being suspended by the International Cricket Council for unruly behaviour when he was given out in the third and final Test in Centurian Park.

assured of leading the Australians on the 16-week Ashes tour by the selectors and the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) chairman Denis Rogers.

markably well as captain," said Rogers, who is in South Africa currently. If Taylor sits out a game or two, it will not be the first time

"I thought about having the second game off but then Steve Waugh would have been captain and Heals (Ian Healy) in Cape

also survived a catch behind before falling two balls later. "To say I'm mentally tired is probably true. It certainly has-

Fifth match: Johannesburg, April 8. Sixth match: Verwoerdburg, April 10. Seventh and final match: Bloemfontein, April 13.

Result: Australia won by

First match: East London —

South Africa won by six wick-

Third match: Cape Town

Fourth match: Durban,

Taylor's opportunity to step lead the side in the captain's absence.

Healy missed the first two

Taylor has been privately

"He is the best man for the job and has carried himself re-

"I might have the next few games off and give (Michael) Di Venuto a go. Town," Taylor said. It was an uncharacteristic Taylor-knock for his 17 runs off 44 balls here as he repeatedly slogged and missed and

he has done so.

n't been through lack of trying." Taylor said.